Approved For Release 2006/07/18 : CIA-RDP80B01495R001300140008-8

DOCI-283-75

IC-75-1363

DDI-567-75

20 February 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Strategic Warning Staff

1. On 19 February 1975 I visited with M/G Faurer and those members of his staff involved in the restructuring of the strategic warning mechanism and functions. The first part of our visit was a discussion of how the Strategic Warning Staff proposes to tackle the problems of manning and operation, and the present thinking with respect to product.

2. Current plans call for a staff of 10 analysts made up of two each from NSA, DIA, and CIA, while State, Army, Navy, and Air Force will furnish one each. General Faurer expressed his pleasure about the high quality of the personnel being nominated by each of the community elements. The analytical staff would be supported by an Executive Officer and necessary secretarial assistance to help in the reproduction and handling of incoming and outgoing information. One of the thoughts being mulled over is that the Staff would probably produce a monthly periodical (they felt that a weekly would too nearly approach the old Watch Report and might suffer some of the same ills) and on the order of one or two good information reports a week. At about this point I raised a question to the effect that if an item was issued that caused the alarm "flag" to be raised, would a follow-up item be issued when it was time for the flag to be lowered. It was generally agreed that such a follow-up item should be issued, even though there was a good possibility that the intelligence information warranting lowering the flag would be generally available throughout the Community.

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3. One question which is of some concern to General Faurer and to [redacted] is the matter of how much coordination should be carried out prior to Strategic Warning Staff products being published. Both General Faurer and [redacted] felt that the need for a fully coordinated USIB

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document could result in excessive delay while seeking for the common denominator rather than rapidly laying out for users the various views held on a developing situation. At this point I recommended that the product could be drawn up, incorporating the variously held positions, and sent to the DCI with USIB review following as appropriate. They were pleased with this suggestion and hope to proceed along those lines. I also indicated that their products would be reviewed by my Product Review Division as part of its ongoing review of all National Intelligence.

4. The latter part of the visit involved a discussion of the facilities being, and to be, built into the NMIC, the type of equipment anticipated, the data banks that would be netted together, and the means of information exchange that were anticipated.

5. The concept, professionalism, and enthusiasm which I saw are indeed encouraging and I believe the SWS will provide the DCI with an effective mechanism.

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Samuel V. Wilson
Lieutenant General, USA
D/DCI/IC

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